

**RANGE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting held at noticed location and by teleconference on Thursday, March 17, 2011  
Resources Building, 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> floor, Room 1506-12  
Sacramento, California

**Attending:**

**RMAC:**

**Representing:**

Ed Anchordoguy  
Bart Cremers  
Lesa Osterholm  
Mel Thompson  
Marc Horney  
Chris Marengo  
Charles Pritchard

California Cattlemen's Association  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Wool Growers Association  
General Public (by phone)  
California Cattlemen's Association (by phone)  
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts  
(by phone)  
California Forestry Association

Scott Carnegie

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

**Members of the Public:**

**Representing:**

Dr. Susan Marshall  
Bill Burrows

Humboldt State University (by phone)  
Sunflower CRMP

*~ Items appear in the order in which they were discussed by the Committee ~*

**Item 1: Call to Order and Introductions**

Vice-Chair Carnegie called the meeting to order and began with introductions.

**Item 2: Review and Approval of November 2010 Draft RMAC and Water Focus Group Meeting Minutes.**

**03-11-01** Member Thompson moved to approve the November 2010 meeting minutes and Member Cremers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with one abstention.

**03-11-02** Member Horney moved to approve the November 2010 Water Focus Group meeting minutes with two revisions, and Member Cremers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with two abstentions.

1 **Item 3: Election of Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson; appointment of**  
2 **Focus Group Chairpersons.**

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4 Following nominations, ballots were cast by each of the Members. Member Mel  
5 Thompson was elected Chair and current Vice-Chair Scott Carnegie was elected to  
6 continue his service as Vice-Chair.

7  
8 Newly elected Chair Thompson then appointed Vice-Chair Carnegie to continue as Chair  
9 of the Vegetation Management Focus Group; Member Marc Horney to continue as Chair  
10 of the Water Focus Group; and Member Bart Cremers to continue as Chair of the  
11 Rangelands Focus Group. Chair Thompson will also serve as Chair of the Policy Focus  
12 Group.

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14 **Item 4: Status Report on Outreach Efforts to Local and State Agricultural**  
15 **Organizations.**

16  
17 This item was discussed during the Rangelands Focus Group Meeting on March 16, 2011.  
18 Refer to Rangelands Focus Group Minutes for discussion.

19  
20 **Item 5: Status Report on Draft Annual Report to the Board of Forestry and Fire**  
21 **Protection.**

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23 Staff reported that a couple of Focus Group Chairs have provided information on the  
24 activities of the Focus Groups over the past year. However, RMAC staff's work has not  
25 yet begun on the collating and additional drafting of the annual report. Staff suggested  
26 that a firm timeline be established to keep staff on task. The objective is to complete the  
27 report in time for presentation to the full Board at their May 2011 meeting. All RMAC  
28 Members were encouraged to attend the May Board meeting.

29  
30 **Item 7: Review and Discussion of Ad Hoc Focus Group's Draft Report on the RMAC**  
31 **Constituent Survey Results.**

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33 Chair Thompson presented the draft report to the Committee and solicited comments from  
34 the Members. A number of edits to the document were suggested and discussed.  
35 Particular attention was focused on the issue of agency permit coordination to support  
36 restoration projects, and the perceived perspectives of landowners and agency  
37 representatives on that subject.

38  
39 Member Horney suggested that the recommendations at the conclusion of the draft report  
40 could lead to more refined tasks intended to facilitate improved interagency coordination.  
41 With regard to the recommendation of creating an "inter-agency permit coordination task  
42 force," he added that perhaps RMAC could first identify a specific permitting process that is  
43 often an obstacle to completing projects. Once a specific process problem area has been  
44 identified, RMAC could then focus on improvement of that problem area. Member Horney  
45 concluded with the observation that the Board may not be able to readily respond to  
46 RMAC's recommendations for permit coordination for a variety of reasons. If that is the  
47 case, RMAC may want to consider continued discussion with its constituents on this topic.  
48 The purpose of further discussions with stakeholders would not be to create a new permit  
49 coordination task force, but rather to continue a dialogue toward greater permit  
50 coordination.

1 Member Pritchard noted that the California Biodiversity Council is an existing body  
2 composed of state and federal agency representatives to whom RMAC could take its  
3 survey findings regarding permit coordination. One of the Council's roles is to facilitate  
4 cooperation between the various represented agencies. Member Osterholm endorsed this  
5 idea and further suggested that RMAC could provide specific recommendations for action  
6 by the Biodiversity Council.

8 Staff questioned whether or not it would be appropriate to assign an RMAC Member or two  
9 to follow up on this topic and attempt to identify permitting processes that are currently  
10 barriers to project completion. Chair Thompson requested that Members' Osterholm and  
11 Pritchard continue to track this topic and keep the Committee updated. Member Horney  
12 observed that problem permitting processes are probably primarily related to water or air  
13 quality.

15 Vice-Chair Carnegie expressed concern that the draft report offers recommendations for  
16 Board action, but does not include a description of what actions RMAC is taking to  
17 support resolution of the issues identified. The Committee concurred that the draft report  
18 should be revised to include a section that identifies RMAC's specific actions to support  
19 its recommendations to the Board.

## 21 **Item 8: Focus Group Reports**

### 23 **Water Focus Group**

24 Focus Group Chair Horney summarized the report from Mr. Ben Zabinsky of the North  
25 Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on the decision not to pursue a Klamath  
26 Region Waiver of Waste Discharge Reporting for irrigated agriculture and grazing. Mr.  
27 Zabinsky indicated that the regional effort will be replaced with the State Water  
28 Resources Control Board's statewide waiver effort for grazing lands.

30 Chair Horney will attempt to make contact with staff from the two regional boards that  
31 have developed grazing waivers, as those waivers may influence the development of the  
32 statewide effort. He may also solicit participation by staff from the State Water Board.  
33 The two existing waivers are for Tomales Bay under the San Francisco Regional Water  
34 Quality Control Board and the Bridgeport area under the Lahontan Regional Water  
35 Quality Control Board.

37 Committee participants then moved on to discussion of the water quality sampling work  
38 being undertaken by Ken Tate and Rob Atwell of UC Davis.

### 40 **Vegetation Management Focus Group**

41 Focus Group Chair Carnegie summarized the two reports received from Ms. Phyllis  
42 Banducci and Mr. Doug Wickizer, respectively. Ms. Banducci is the Cal Fire Staff Chief  
43 with responsibility for implementation of the 2010 State Fire Plan. Mr. Wickizer is the  
44 coordinator of Cal Fire's Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report.  
45 Chair Carnegie noted the integral relationship of the VTP EIR to the State Fire Plan.

### 47 **Rangeland Focus Group**

48 Focus Group Chair Cremers summarized the report on the status of Williamson Act  
49 subvention funding by John Gamper of the California Farm Bureau Federation. Chair  
50 Cremers also reported on the issue brought forward by Member Chuck Pritchard  
51 regarding grazing on the Carrizzo Plain; the status of the revised Guidelines for the

1 Certified Rangeland Manager Program; and the status of efforts by Members Horney  
2 and Pritchard to solicit financial support from local agriculture organizations to support  
3 educational opportunities for range students.

#### 4 5 **Policy Focus Group**

6 Focus Group Chair Thompson summarized discussion of his commentary on the  
7 manner in which RMAC and its Focus Groups respond to issues. He went on to discuss  
8 the pending review and revision of RMAC's Strategic Plan. Vice-Chair Carnegie  
9 volunteered to initiate this revision effort and produce a draft for discussion at a future  
10 meeting. Chair Thompson also noted that each Focus Group's priorities for 2011 should  
11 be provided to staff for collation into a summary priority report. The newly appointed ad  
12 hoc focus group on interagency permit coordination (Members Osterholm and Pritchard)  
13 will likewise be required to identify priorities.

#### 14 15 **Item 6: Presentation by Mr. Forrest Mertens of SunOne Solutions on Rangeland** 16 **Carbon Markets.**

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18 Chair Thompson introduced Mr. Forrest Mertens, a principal with SunOne Solutions, a  
19 carbon market project developer based in Denver, Colorado with a newly opened office in  
20 Davis, California. Mr. Mertens then proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation on  
21 opportunities for rangeland carbon marketing under California's proposed cap and trade  
22 program. Copies of the presentation are available through RMAC staff.

23  
24 At the conclusion of the presentation, the Members discussed the possibility of the  
25 California Air Resources Board's development of a rangeland protocol for carbon  
26 marketing. Member Cremers suggested that a letter could be sent to the Air Board  
27 indicating RMAC's support for development of a rangeland protocol. The Committee  
28 concurred with this idea and Member Cremers volunteered to draft the letter. Staff  
29 suggested that this letter should be reviewed by the Board's Executive Officer, as it may be  
30 more appropriate for the letter to come from the Board in light of the Board's working  
31 relationship with the Air Board.

#### 32 33 **Item 9: Comments from Agencies and Associations**

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35 No comments.

#### 36 37 **Item 10: New and Unfinished Business.**

#### 38 39 **Presentation by Mr. Bill Burrows, Sunflower Coordinated Resource Management** 40 **Plan**

41 Mr. Burrows reported on a project undertaken by the Sunflower Coordinated Resource  
42 Management Plan (CRMP). The Sunflower CRMP includes nearly 100 landowners with  
43 80,000 combined acres in Tehama County. The proposed project Mr. Burrows presented is  
44 the creation of an inter-agency "Northern Region Training and Safety Exercise Area" for  
45 coordination of fire suppression training activities. In order to develop this project, the  
46 CRMP will have to pursue CEQA authorization in the form of a programmatic EIR with  
47 funding through the local federal Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). Mr. Burrows  
48 questioned whether or not this proposed project could be authorized through the current  
49 Cal Fire VTP EIR effort instead of pursuing a separate EIR.

1 The Members lead by Vice-Chair Carnegie discussed the limitations of the current draft  
2 VTP EIR and suggested that Mr. Burrows may not want to tie into the limitations imposed in  
3 the draft VTP EIR.  
4

5 Mr. Burrows then asked if RMAC would be willing to send a letter of support for the  
6 proposal to the RAC. The RAC will soon be considering whether or not to fund the  
7 proposed project and a letter from RMAC endorsing the proposal could be helpful. Member  
8 Horney volunteered to draft the letter and the Committee concurred with this action.  
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10 Following further discussion, staff brought in Mr. Allen Robertson and Mr. Dan Foster from  
11 Cal Fire's Environmental Protection Program to review Mr. Burrows' proposal in relation to  
12 the proposed and existing VTP EIR authorizations. Mssrs. Robertson and Foster  
13 suggested several alternatives, including use of the existing VTP EIR authorization, for Mr.  
14 Burrows' consideration and agreed to correspond further as the project proceeds.  
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16 **Item 11: Public Comment.**  
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18 No comment was offered and meeting was adjourned by motion of Member Osterholm with  
19 a second provided by Vice-Chairman Carnegie.  
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